



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2007

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
MEDIA ADVISORY**

**MAYOR SPENDS DAY FOCUSED ON RECOVERY EFFORTS
FOR AREAS AFFECTED BY SOLEDAD MOUNTAIN LANDSLIDE**

Mayor Jerry Sanders continued his work on Friday to speed up recovery efforts for areas affected by the Soledad Mountain landslide. The Mayor:

- Transmitted his Declaration of Emergency for Soledad Mountain to the County of San Diego. The County is the local agency charged with conveying declarations of emergencies to state and federal officials. The Declaration has now been delivered to Governor Schwarzenegger. Staff from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services toured the landslide area this morning.
- Discussed site conditions and the City's recovery needs with Mary Peters, Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation. The Mayor and Secretary Peters discussed potential federal support for the City's recovery activities in the affected area.
- Met with City staff assigned to all operations and remediation activities.
- Worked with the City's Intergovernmental Relations Department to continue communication and outreach efforts with agencies and offices that might be capable of providing funding for the recovery effort.

COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

City staff worked throughout the day and continued securing the area and evaluating the safety of private homes in the affected area. The geotechnical consultants retained by the City were also on site throughout the day and continued their work to determine the cause of the slide and the best methods for recovery. The City and consultant teams:

- Finished planning work for the sewer manhole installation necessary for restoring sewer service in the area. Installation of the manhole is expected on Saturday, October 6 and will allow more homes to be cleared for reoccupancy.
- Finished the second of three 30 inch access holes used by City engineers and the geotechnical consultants to inspect soils beneath the slide area.
- Lowered engineers into the access holes to begin the forensic and recovery analysis.

MORE HOMES REOPENED FOR RESIDENTS

The City has continued its effort to restore access for residents displaced from their homes during the landslide event. At the height of the evacuation caused by the landslide, the City displaced families from 111 homes along Soledad Mountain Road, Desert View Drive, Desert View Alley and Palomino Circle.

At of Friday afternoon, 7 homes remained “red tagged” and are deemed uninhabitable by the City. Another 22 homes have been “yellow-tagged” meaning that residents may not stay in the homes though they are allowed to recover personal items when accompanied by public safety staff. 82 homes have been cleared for reoccupancy.